REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 17, 19-24, and 26-35 remain pending and at issue in the above identified patent application. Of the claims at issue, claims 1, 17, 24, and 31 are independent. The applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 4, 6, 22, and 29 are allowable. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-8, 17, 19-21, 23-24, 26-28, and 30-35 were rejected as being unpatentable over Krishnaswamy (US 7,051,367) in view Doran ("Extensible Firmware Interface). It is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable over these patents for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1 is generally directed to a method to provide a platform-level network security framework. In particular, claim 1 recites a platform-level network security framework (NSP) that, *inter alia*, identifies one or more platform-level network security protocols associated with an extensible firmware interface (EFI). None of the cited references describes or suggests identifying one or more platform-level network security protocols associated with an EFI, as recited in claim 1.

In contrast, Krishnaswamy describes a packet service routines (PSR) that services a protocol type, such as an Internet protocol (IP), TCP/IP, or an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP). As admitted by the examiner, Krishnaswamy fails to describe or suggest any security protocols, much less platform-level network security protocols associated with an extensible firmward interface (EFI). [*Office action*, page 2].

To cure the deficiencies of Krishnaswamy, the examiner relies upon Doran. Specifically, the examiner alleges that "Doran discloses the extensible firmware interface associated with platform-level network security protocol." (See *Office action*, page 2, citing

Doran, Slide entitled "What is EFI?: Services and Protocols – Protocols.") Furthermore, the examiner alleges that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the extensible firmware interface and associated platform-level network security protocol in Krishnaswamy in order to simplify the design as taught in Doran. (See *Office action*, pages 2-3, citing *Doran*, Slide entitled "What is EFI?: Services and Protocols – Protocol Example.") The applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's assertion, and specifically, the applicants note that Doran fails to describe or suggest an extensible firmware interface associated with a platform-level network security protocol, as supported by the examiner.

In particular, Doran describes, in a high-level discussion, what services and protocols EFI pertains to. For example, the slide relied upon by the examiner (reproduced below) provides an overview of example protocols associated with an EFI drive, and fails to describe or suggest any network security protocol. As can be seen from the illustration, Doran describes a Globally Unique Identifier (GUID), an interface structure and general services. As shown, a Handle Protocol (i.e., a GUID) may interface with a Protocol Interface containing a number of function pointers. The Protocol Interface, in turn, communicates with the EFI Driver as necessary. No where, however, does Doran describe or suggest identifying one or more platform-level network security protocols associated with an extensible firmware interface as claimed.
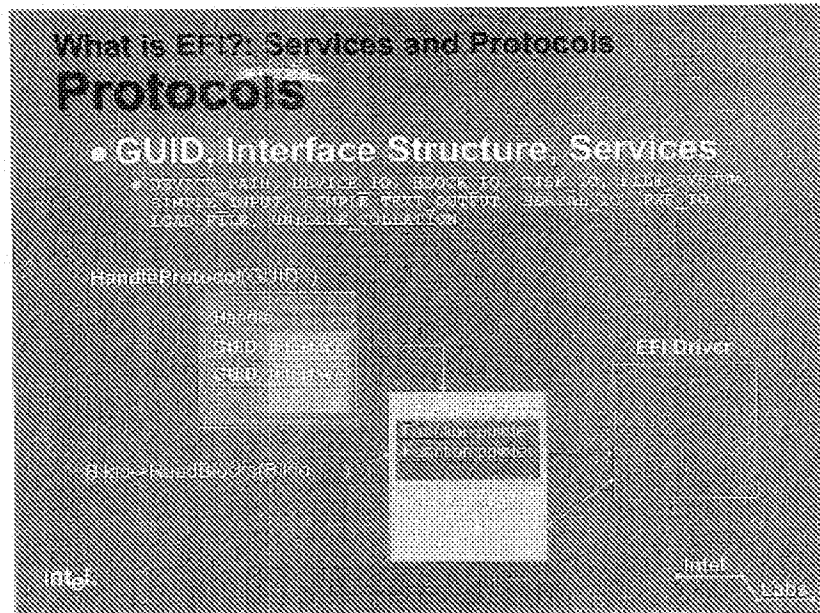
Rather, each of the identified services (e.g. DEVICE_PATH, DEVICE_IO, etc.) are general I/O services and are not related to an NSF. Similarly, the Handle Protocol is a listing of all GUID interface handles, and fails to teach or suggest an NSF. Finally, the Protocol Interface is a listing of pointers directed to specific function calls via a function pointer. Accordingly, Doran cannot fairly be characterized as describing or suggesting identifying one or more platform-level network security protocols associated with an extendable firmware interface as claimed.

Therefore, due to the deficiencies in both Krishnaswamy and Doran, it follows that no combination of the references can render obvious claim 1 or any claims dependent thereon. In particular, because neither Krishnaswamy nor Doran describes identifying one or more platform-level network security protocols associated with an extensible firmware interface, no combination of Krishnaswamy and Doran can result in a system in which security protocols are associated with an extensible firmware interface (EFI). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, independent claims 17, 24, and 31 are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1. Thus, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims and all claims dependent thereon are also in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof are respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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